



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 18, 2018

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Mr. Christopher Collins  
MuckRock  
411A Highland Avenue  
DEPT MR 32411  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144

Dear Mr. Collins:

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request No. EPA-HQ-2017-003208

This letter concerns the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act request received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 25, 2017, which requested records related to the communications pause implemented at the EPA following the Presidential Inauguration.

Today we are releasing to you 1,259 pages of records containing materials responsive to your request. You may access the records at:

- <https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/submissionDetails?trackingNumber=EPA-HQ-2017-003479&type=request>; and
- <https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/submissionDetails?trackingNumber=EPA-HQ-2018-008089&type=request>.

Portions of these records are being withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), the Deliberative Process Privilege, and 552(b)(6) Personal Privacy Information. The portions of records are exempt from disclosure because they are predecisional and deliberative and would harm agency decision-making if released or because they contain personal information which would and/or could be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released.

If these records satisfy your interest in this matter and you would like to close your FOIA request, please contact Christopher Creech at (202) 564-4286 or [creech.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:creech.christopher@epa.gov) at your convenience. Be sure to reference your FOIA request number.

If you are still interested in proceeding with the remainder of your FOIA request, please notify Mr. Creech within **thirty working days** of the date of this letter. Mr. Creech can also be reached by mail at Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Mail Code 2310A, Washington, D.C. 2046. If you do not respond within the designated time, the EPA will administratively close your request in accordance with U.S. Department of Justice guidance.

You may appeal this records release with an email to [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov), through FOIAonline if you are an account holder or by writing to:

National FOIA Office  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2310A)  
Washington, D.C. 20460

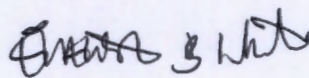
Please note that only correspondence mailed through the U.S. Postal Service can be delivered to the address above. If you would like to deliver your appeal in person, via courier service or via an overnight delivery service, you must address your correspondence to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 5315, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Your written appeal must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter and should include the request number listed above. The EPA will not consider appeals received after the 90-calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5 p.m. Eastern time will be considered as having been received the next business day. For the quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email or the appeal letter and its envelope should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Additionally, you may seek dispute resolution services from EPA's FOIA public liaison at [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov) or (202) 566-1667 or from the Office of Government Information Services. You may contact OGIS with an email to [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); by calling (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448; with a fax to (202) 741-5769; or by mail to Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8610 Adelphi Road, Room 2510, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

If you have any questions about this response, please contact Christopher Creech at (202) 564-4286 or [creech.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:creech.christopher@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth B. White", written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth B. White  
Director